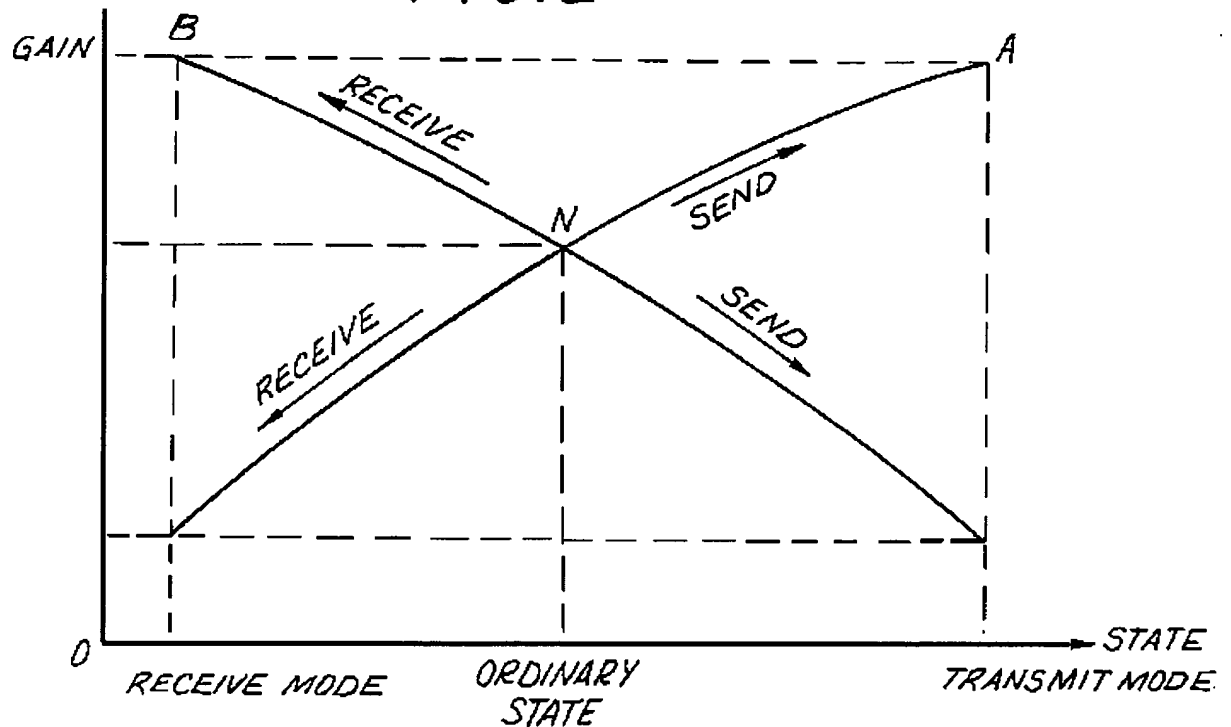


REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected and claims 2-7, 9 and 10 are objected to. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-7, 9 and 10. Applicant defers re-writing these dependent claims in independent form until final resolution of independent claims 1 and 8. In light of the remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,507,524 ("Yun"). In light of the remarks below, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1 and 8.

The Office Action asserts that Yun teaches a transmitting side attenuation section at column 3, lines 13-22. The Office Action further asserts that the second attenuation circuit explicitly recited in Applicant's claim is disclosed by Yun at column 3, lines 42-62. Applicant again respectfully disagrees with this reading of Yun. Yun discloses that the microphone input signal is amplified using variable gain amplifier 48. The received voice signal is amplified using amplifier 57. Yun only discloses amplifying the input signal and not attenuating them as explicitly recited in Applicant's claim. In fact, as shown in Figure 2, reproduced below, the signals in Yun are always amplified.

FIG. 2

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, in response to Applicant's arguments that the Yun reference does not disclose attenuation. The Office Action asserts that the "gain of the amplifier is changed either by increasing or reducing the gain of the amplifier." The Office Action goes on to state that Figures 2, 3b, and 3c show that transmitting amplifier 48 reduces gain (i.e., attenuates a signal).

Applicant disagrees with this interpretation of Yun. When reviewing Figures 2, 3b, and 3c, at no time is the signal attenuated. There may be less gain applied to the signal but the signal is not attenuated. Reducing gain is not the same as attenuating. Reducing gain means that while the signal is amplified, it is not amplified as much as it could be whereas attenuating the signal means that it is reduced from the input level.

The Office Action also asserts that because claims 1 and 8 are open ended claims, these claims do not exclude the presence of amplified signals. While Applicant does not disagree with the principle of the statement, it is irrelevant that amplified signals may also be present because the Yun reference fails to disclose the explicitly recited attenuators.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: January 21, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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